

# Creating a SMART Aim Statement

---

## Overview

Your team is ready to make a change that requires a collective effort and focus. Essential in this achievement is the ability for all in the team to understand and align with what is trying to be accomplished. Use this worksheet to develop a precise, concise, and achievable Aim Statement.

## Working with a team to create the Aim Statement:

1. Fill the empty boxes on the *Worksheet for Creating a SMART Aim Statement* with the parts of the statement that you believe satisfies each letter of the SMART acronym: S, M, A, R, T.
2. After you have finished entering each of the criteria, use the checklists below each letter in the acronym to see how solid your entries are.
3. Finally, form the Aim Statement on the bottom half of this page using the pertinent SMART elements.

**When you think your Aim Statement is SMART, do this last test:** Ask those outside the team yet are associated or affected by the Aim Statement to describe what the statement means to them. If the description is vague, work with them on how to make it clearer. Then have the team consider incorporating this input into the statement.

# Worksheet for Creating a SMART Aim Statement

<p><b>Specific</b></p>	
	<p>___ What is the goal or intent. Precisely and concisely describe what is to be achieved. It MUST focus on achieving only <b>SPECIFIC</b> things.</p>
<p><b>Measurable</b></p>	
	<p>___ There is a direct relation between the increase and the decrease of a measure and the attainment or loss of the goal. Recommend: Start the Aim Statement with Increase/Decrease...then describe the object of what is to be measured</p> <p>___ There are means with which to measure and monitor progress over time (to take, collect, and record the measurement)</p>
<p><b>Actionable</b></p>	
	<p>___ The team can take action to overcome any known barriers to achieving the proposed measurable results</p> <p>___ The 'HOW' of achieving this goal in NOT part of the Aim Statement (this would restrict other plausible solutions)</p>
<p><b>Realistic</b></p>	
	<p>___ Given the resources available, it is within the teams ability to achieve, control, or influence the Aim's attainment</p> <p>___ There is nothing that will compete with the time, attention or ability to achieve the goal</p>
<p><b>Timely</b></p>	
	<p>___ The goal has a target date. If timeline is beyond 6 months there are interim Milestones.</p> <p>___ There is nothing that should compete with the time and attention needed to achieve the goal</p>